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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Comments on Development of the Current
Soviet Purge

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- 25X1 1. A large-scale Soviet purge is believed to be in the making. It will be of a
25X1 general nature and not likely confined to such categories as Jews or doctors.
- 25X1 2. The purge is expected definitely to cover military leadership. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] many Soviet military leaders were opposed to Stalin's leadership
25X1 and control of the military during World War II. [redacted] such
opposition has since grown as a result of their fear that Stalin's policy is
leading toward war and that such a war means destruction of the Soviet Union
because of Western industrial superiority.
3. The purge may include security forces also, especially in a later stage, in
25X1 order to remove those who have eliminated others. The revival of the Kuybyshev
affair appears to be a preparation in this direction.¹

[redacted] Comment: In 1938 Genrikh Grigorevich Yagoda, Commissar of Internal
Affairs (NKVD), confessed to having bribed a group of doctors to administer
harmful drugs to a group of high Soviet officials, including Valerian V. Kuybyshev,
who died in 1934.

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